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To the Right Honourable
The Lord Brougham & Vaux
Lord High Chancellor
of Great Britain

eh eh eh

My Lord,
I crave your Lordship's
indulgence, when I submit
this very short Enquiry to
your Lordship's consideration
feeling, as I do, that even
your official Duties
as the Guardian of the
Persons, and Property of
Lunatics, in the higher
Walks of Society, are, at
least, equalled by the Appeal
which the Pauper Lunatic

makes to your Lordship,
as a Philanthropist
The deplorable state
of Pauper Lunatics has
engrossed my unwearied
anxiety, and correspond-
ent exertions, for some
years, during which
time, I have been in
frequent correspondence
with the different
Institutions of this nature
and - Although from a
misshapen Economy, the

County of Devon has not,
as yet, enabled me to carry
my object into Effect, yet
I shall persevere as long
as there is any chance
of success; which will
mainly depend upon the
Enactments of the intended
renewal of the Act of 3 Geo. 4
ch. 40; and the lesser
weight of Agricultural
Distress - and I look
up to your Lordship,
for both of those important
objects -
By the late Act

The section that required
the tenants to spend
of the Quarter lessons
to throw back half
of the County Rate,
from the occupier
upon the Land owner,
(almost) amounted
to a prohibition, and
the stipulations in the
34th Sect. respecting Chaplains
I have found to be very
different in operation,
from what it was, in
Theory, intended to be.

There are other Parts
of the Act which require
Alterations, but I will
not intrude there
upon your Lordship,
at this Time,

I have the Honor
to remain,

My Lord,

With Very Esteem
Your Obedt^h Serv^t
Wth most Respect

W. Palmer



348212

AN ENQUIRY

AS TO THE

EXPEDIENCY

OF A

COUNTY ASYLUM

FOR

Pauper Lunatics.

SECOND EDITION,

WITH CONSIDERABLE ADDITIONS.

BY

WILLIAM PALMER, D. D.,

A MAGISTRATE FOR THE COUNTIES OF DEVON AND SOMERSET.

EXETER:

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TO
SIR ANDREW HALLIDAY, F.R.S., E.,
KNIGHT OF THE ROYAL ORDER OF THE GUELPHS,
AND PHYSICIAN, HAMPTON COURT.

MY DEAR SIR,

THE Reflection of your own Mind—that, under Divine Providence, you have been enabled to relieve the lamentable situation of neglected Lunatics, by inducing the Legislature patiently to examine into their state, and repeatedly to enact Laws for their benefit—is, by far, of greater value than the praise of Man; though enriched, as you have received it, by the approbation of the Illustrious, and distinguished by the concurrence and sanction of the Scientific: yet, as I

attribute much of the success that has hitherto attended my Labours in the same Cause, to the information and advice you have afforded me, I feel it a duty I owe to the ultimate success of that Cause, to solicit a continuance of your Exertions, whilst I offer this, as a tribute of my regard for the Friend and Patron of the Afflicted, and to subscribe myself,

MY DEAR SIR,

Your faithful, humble Servant,

W. PALMER.

June 18, 1830.

INTRODUCTION.

FROM the almost unanimous resolution of the Magistrates assembled at the last Epiphany Sessions to form a Committee to enquire into the expediency of establishing a Pauper Lunatic Asylum, sole, for the County of Devon, I consider the Public Mind quite satisfied with the Policy, as well as the Humanity, of the measure.

From all that I have been able to learn, the only *legitimate* objection regards the *Expence*; which has been rated as considerable, and also *perpetual*. To remove any mis-apprehension on this point, I am led once more to call the attention of the Public to this interesting subject, in the hope that the Report of the Committee

may receive the most decided concurrence of the Court, as well as the full approbation of the Payers of the County Rates themselves; and that a measure will be adopted, upon which the happiness of thousands, both *individually* and *relatively*, will, in every age, depend. Since the discussion of this subject, so much Public Interest has been excited, that I am assured, more than ever, that the Lamentations of the Reason-stricken are reaching the ears, and sinking deep into the hearts, of a compassionate and charitable People, *who* will feel an increased zeal, from the example of so great and enlightened a County.

June, 1830.

DEVON.

C O U N T Y

Lunatic Asylum.

As the notice, which has been given by order of the Court of Quarter Sessions, to take into consideration the expediency of providing a County Lunatic Asylum for Insane Persons (under the 9th Geo. IV, c. 40) will necessarily bring this interesting question under enquiry, it may not be improper to submit to the Magistrates some of its leading features. The multiplicity of business occupying the Court on the first day of the Session, renders it desirable that the measure

should be previously laid before them, rather than that their decision should depend on any observations that may be made at the time.

Of the importance of the subject, there can be but *one* opinion ; and, perhaps, the conviction in the public mind, as to its expediency, is as extensively admitted.

Since the publication of the first “ENQUIRY,” considerable objection has been raised to this important and philanthropic measure, on the *sole score* of its supposed expence ; and which appears the only stumbling-block in the way of its accomplishment.

Much mis-apprehension having prevailed, as to the original expence, and the future burthens on the County Rates, and notwithstanding that it would be highly improper for me to enter into detail before the Report of the Committee shall have been made, yet I owe it to this great object to remove the fallacies which have, in many instances, led to conclusions diametrically opposite to what is the true state of the case.

It is not a dry calculation of the most *frugal* plan to dispose of the wretched Lunatic, but the influence of benevolent commiseration, which should lead us to a sound and enlightened judgment. The only apparent obstacle to the present accomplishment of this object is the depressed state of agriculture* ; yet, I humbly trust, I shall be able to make out such a case as will induce the Court to keep alive the object, should circumstances require a *delay* of the immediate prosecution of the work ; so that by patient perseverance this load of human misery may be considerably lightened, and, in very many instances, entirely removed.

The importance of this measure, its obstacles and remedies, are evidently the necessary points for our consideration.

The great increase of Insanity is stated, in a very able and accurate pamphlet, by Sir

* It is admitted, that this depression is considerably relieved since the Autumn of the last year. Amongst other articles, Butter, which was then contracted for at 6s. 6d. per doz., is now contracted for freely at 9s.

Andrew Halliday, to have become *three-fold* greater than it was twenty years ago; and which, in England, he calculates at one in every thousand of the inhabitants; in Wales, at one in every eight hundred; and in Scotland, at one in every five hundred and seventy-four. This writer agrees with the most ingenious pathologists in opinion, that if cases of lunacy were attended to when the attack is recent, it would seldom prove incurable.

This opinion is so completely established by the Reports of the Wakefield and Armagh Asylums, that I shall confine myself to this selection only.

The Wakefield Report, with which I have been favoured by Dr. Ellis, the Director, gives the following Statement:—

<p>Cases not having been Insane more than 3 months— first attack</p>	<p><i>Admitted.</i> } 44</p>	<p>Cases not exceed- ing 12 months— first attack</p>	<p><i>Admitted.</i> } 23</p>
<p>Within 6 months from admission . }</p>	<p><i>Cured.</i> } 28</p>	<p>Within 2 years from admission }</p>	<p><i>Cured.</i> } 9</p>

The Armagh Report, with which I have been favoured by Sir Andrew Halliday, gives the following Statement :—

From the 1st Jan., 1829, to 5th Jan., 1830.

<i>No. Admitted.</i>		<i>No. Recovered.</i>	
Old Cases 32	Old Cases 1
Recent Cases 37	Recent Cases 27

Mr. Jackson, of Armagh, in his last Report, observes, “That these Tables afford a most marked confirmation of the opinion advanced in former Reports, of the important benefits to be derived from *early treatment*; and should stimulate the friends of Patients to place them at once in the Asylum, before the malady become habitual or inveterate.”

Sir Andrew Halliday well observes,—“The cure of Insanity is no longer a matter of speculation, but one of undoubted certainty, when the Patient is properly treated. The ravages of this disease are even more horrible than the Plague. It has increased with a rapidity of which the public are little aware; and

it is still increasing, and will continue to increase, unless the most active means are resorted to to put a stop to its progress. And there is no measure that will be half so effectual as the establishment of regular and properly organized Hospitals or Asylums in every County throughout the Kingdom, where the afflicted may be kept, not only separated from the Community at large, but where their symptoms can be watched and the disease removed.”

I feel strongly persuaded—from observations which I have been enabled to make, by living near two Lunatic Asylums—that insanity is only *decidedly* incurable when the mind is rivetted to one object alone; and, consequently, the greater variety of amusement (especially in horticultural pursuits) that can be afforded—and such as *have no reference to the respective causes* of delusion—the greater is the probability of restoration. The hope however cannot be indulged for the *poor* neglected maniac, whose malady is often attributed either to idleness, or the influence of some superstitious agency,

and he is suffered to roam at large—the terror of the unprotected, and the disgust of the decent—until absolute necessity drives the Parish Officer to receive him into the poor-house, or place him with some of his neighbours; and, in either case, should some transient glimmering of reason break in upon his bewildered mind, there is nothing to cheer it. He finds he is considered a burden to all around him, and he sinks deeper into his distracted wilderness of imagination, until every trace of reason is blotted out, and he falls a victim to despondency or self-destruction.

It appears from the Returns to Parliament made in March last, that the state of Pauper Lunatics in this County is as follows:—

LUNATICS.			IDIOTS.		
Males.	Females.	Total Number.	Males.	Females.	Total Number.
103	92	195	139	143	282

and that, of the 195 Lunatics specified in this Return, 92 appear to be confined in Asylums and Workhouses; but more than four-fifths are kept in the latter, subject to all the incon-

veniences, and want of proper treatment, which, of necessity, must prevail in establishments of this nature.

The following Report, taken from Trewmans' Paper, speaks volumes in favour of the measure I am advocating :—

“INQUEST HELD BY ISAAC COX, Esq.

(*“ From a Correspondent.”*)

“At the King's Arms Inn, Ottery St. Mary, on the 24th April, on the body of Sarah Priddis, aged 67, a lunatic pauper, residing in the poor-house of that parish, who died on the 14th, and was buried on the 21st; but, in consequence of information received from several individuals as to the cause of the death of the deceased, the Coroner felt it necessary to have the body disinterred. On the investigation, the following facts were elicited:—Deceased, who was of a nervous irritable habit, and subject to temporary nervous fevers, was residing with Elizabeth Harding, one of her sisters, at Ottery, in July last, receiving from the Overseers 2s. per week; she was at this time in as good health as might be expected from the nature of her constitution and her advanced age; and was considered to be a very cleanly, careful woman. She was

enabled to earn a small pittance (about $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. a-day) at making lace; and on the Overseers hearing of this, they reduced her pay to 1s. per week. The deceased, finding she could not subsist upon this sum, applied to the Select Vestry for her regular pay, viz. 2s. per week, which they refused to give, and referred her to a neighbouring farmer, who, they said, would give her employment in his fields; but it was shewn that she had been past this employment for some years. Upon finding the Committee would not give her pay, she ran out of the Vestry, as if in despair, into the Church, and fell away in a fit; she recovered, and was taken home to her sister's. The deprivation she suffered in consequence of the loss of her pay, and in being obliged to sell several articles of her clothing, is supposed to have preyed upon her mind, thereby increasing her naturally nervous temperament, till at length it ended in insanity. Several solicitations were made to the Committee by her sister for additional relief, in consequence of the illness, but without effect; and the poor woman, finding that she was unable to provide for the deceased, made an application for her admittance into the Workhouse. Another sister, however (Mary Fowler), removed the deceased to her house, where she remained several weeks in a most deplorable state, her poor friends sitting up by her by day and night. For the first three weeks the Overseers

allowed 1s. per week, and afterwards 2s., but this being so small she was compelled to pawn all the things belonging to the deceased. When this source was exhausted, and also her own means, the deceased was again taken home to Elizabeth Harding's, where her malady increased, and after remaining there about a week was conveyed to the Workhouse; where, in a little more than six weeks, death put a period to her sufferings. On examining into the treatment the deceased had received at the Workhouse it appeared, that she had been confined alone in a room without fire and candle, the greater part of the window boarded up, part of the glass of the window broken, and that she died alone. It also appeared, that the deceased complained of the Mistress of the Workhouse having beaten her, which fact was substantiated by one of the inmates, who had heard the stripes and the screeches of the deceased. Persons in the neighbourhood also spoke to the screams of the deceased to be let out, for her friends, &c., and of children mocking her. It appeared that the poor in this Workhouse are farmed out to the Governess at the following rates:—For an able-bodied person (of which there are nine) 2s. 6d. each; two bed-liers, 2s. 6d. each; 3 insane persons, 5s. each; for the deceased she was allowed 3s. 6d., for the last two weeks, 4s., the Gentlemen would not allow more. The Governess was further allowed

12s. per week, to find coals, soap, candles, and all other necessaries, including the wear and tear of furniture of the house, except beds and bedding, and except wine in sickness; and that for waking 6d. per night was allowed. The Master of the Workhouse is a labourer in the employ of the Rev. Mr. Elliott, except one day a-week, which he devotes to the business of the Workhouse. The body, on disinterment, exhibited a shocking spectacle; being extremely emaciated, and ashes having been substituted in the coffin for bran.—The Jury occupied all the day in the investigation, when the Foreman returned a vordict of *Natural Death*.—The Coroner expressed himself in terms of strong disapprobation of the conduct of the Vestry and Parish Officers, in consequence of a notice on the Workhouse door prohibiting any one to enter except by order of the Select. The Coroner said he should consider it as a Prison, and hold Inquests on all persons who died there.”

The apprehension of future expence, often induces the *guardians* of the *morals* of the poor (for such are Overseers) to risk the penalty imposed by the Statute, when information is not given to a Magistrate within *seven* days after a case of lunacy occurs, rather than com-

ply with the *humane* obligation, without reflecting that an increase of weekly expense, for probably a few months, might prevent a permanent burden; and which expense would be considerably less, under a County Lunatic Asylum, than it is at present. Indeed, I am fully persuaded, that the expence of an Asylum might be materially reduced, by the labour of the patients; and which, by amusing the mind will tend, very materially, to relieve the malady.

The correctness of this position has a melancholy confirmation in the following, being one of a great number of cases that have been reported to me:—

Some years since, a poor woman, residing with a large family, in the parish of Coombe St. Nicholas, was attacked with a disease, called *Mania lactea*. This kind of Insanity not being hereditary (and it is consolatory to be able to state, from the high authority of Sir Andrew Halliday, that the number of cases of hereditary Insanity is very trifling indeed when compared

with those of any other species), and not interwoven with the constitution, is of all others the easiest to cure, provided it be properly treated in an early stage. In this case the Overseers applied to the Keeper of an adjoining Asylum to receive the sufferer; but finding the charge 12s. a-week, they were deterred by the expence, and she has been suffered to remain in the parish to the present hour, lost to all the endearments of kindred affection, and living in the Poor-house, to the lamentable annoyance of its inmates.

The result of this parsimony will, under the most moderate calculation, be a dead loss to the Parish of upwards a hundred pounds, as will appear by estimating the expence at 6s a week, and only taking her life at 8 years, even allowing her 6 months in an Asylum, which is much longer than, by any chance, would be required.

In the observations I have made, I beg most distinctly to avow, that I have no intention to cast a general censure upon the large majority

of persons who pay County Rates; so far from it, I feel it my duty to state, that so strong is the feeling in favour of this measure, that I have been asked if I would wish for Petitions in its support, from Freeholders and the Tenantry; to which I have given my negative, for the assigned reason, that I am convinced Magistrates will be found anxious to do whatever, *under all the bearings of the subject*, will appear right and *practicable*.

The importance of a proper provision for poor Lunatics is by no means confined to *themselves*; these are, more or less, unconscious of their wretched situation; but it is far otherwise with the unhappy inmates in the Poor-house. The almost unceasing ravings of the violent, or the heart-rending wailings of the dejected, add to the restlessness of the sick, disturb the resignation of the afflicted, and interrupt the preparation of the aged for that better state of existence, in which they have the promise of being comforted.

The only apparent obstacle to effect this benevolent work, is the difficulty in these

times of agricultural distress, of providing a sufficient fund*. I am willing to place this, *the only* difficulty, in its *strongest* point: the expence then of purchasing a quantity of land, building an Asylum, and making it fit for the reception of from 150 to 200 Patients, I feel assured may be estimated at less than £15,000. Some persons would probably take the expence higher; but I cannot but remark that I have considered Public Buildings generally attended with an unnecessary expence. It was well observed that “our Jails appeared more like Palaces than Prisons.” Whatever is carried beyond necessary convenience, should be attributed to some other motive than charity. I do not, however, quarrel with it, and could I see a subscription of a given purpose for *essential*, and an additional subscription for *ornamental* buildings, I should admire it; but, in the present case we must be content with that which is *essential*, at least as far as we may draw upon the County Rates;

* From various sources of information which I have received since this observation was made, I am bound to admit that I laboured under an error.

and, with this view, I am well advised that £15,000. would, under the most unfavourable circumstances, effect our object ; which brings me to enquire how such a sum can be raised with the least possible embarrassment to the county : in other words, how it can be made least heavy upon the payers of County Rates.

Since the order of Sessions appointed a Committee, the sum required has been considered too small to be spread over 14 years, but that one and half rate a-year, for ten years, would be preferable.

By this arrangement every Tenant whose	}	s.	d.
Estate is rated at £100. a-year, would		3	1½
have to pay - - - - -			
From which would be deducted as Rent,	}		
the Landlord's Moiety, under the		1	6¾
power given by the Statute - - -			
		<hr/>	
		Per Annum	1 6¾
			<hr/>

The whole expence, therefore, which would be borne by the Tenant rated at £100. per annum, and so in proportion for others, would amount to the insignificant sum of 1s. 6¾d. per annum, during the ten years.

I am, however, aware that this deduction as *Rent* must be made by the *unanimous* concurrence of the Courts at which the measure is adopted. This Clause of the Act has caused much remark, and its history, I have been informed by the humane and able Member (Robt. Gordon, Esq.) who brought the subject before Parliament, is this: The Bill had passed through the Commons without the restriction, but it would have been lost in the Lords had not the words requiring unanimity been introduced. The same Honorable Member has also informed me that the Clause has been acted upon in Kent, and also in Dorsetshire, where two or three of the Magistrates, who did not approve of the deduction as *Rent*, left the Court before it proceeded to a vote, "being unwilling to act in opposition to the strongly-expressed feelings of the majority." Nor can I for a moment bring myself to think that, under similar circumstances, a similar result would not take place in every Court of Sessions; and from the knowledge of the sentiments which the three gentlemen who opposed the measure profess, I feel confident

they would not resist a proposition *which would defeat* an arrangement, whereby the whole burden would inevitably fall upon the Tenantry; and I owe it to the liberality of one of these gentlemen to state *publicly* his wish that if the measure should be carried, the *whole* expence should be borne by the Land-owner. As regards the Annual Payment, it must not be forgotten that the proportion which the rated bears to the actual value is at least 25 per cent, in favour of the former.

But really it is childish for any one to contend that this charge upon the County can be felt by any individual; and it is equally so to contend that in parishes where there are no Pauper Lunatics it is an injustice. It might as well be contended that there should not be any payment to a Gaol because there may not be a Felon in the Parish, nor to a County Bridge, because some Parishes have no river running through them.

The Asylum at

Bodmin, for 104 Patients, cost £16,000

Chester, .. 100	20,100	{ With 10 Acres of valuable Land.
Lincoln, .. 78	15,000	

ditto

Considering the cheapness of materials at Exeter, with those at other places, and the present low price of labour, considerable allowance may be made ; and calculating the prices for large Establishments—such as Lancaster, Wakefield, Armagh, and Limerick—the same proportion, when compared with the Patients, will be ascertained.

To this statement, I will extract a passage from Dr. Ellis's Letter to T. Thompson, Esq , M.P., a Member of the Committee on Lunatic Enquiry, in 1825, wherein he says "I think £14,000. would provide every accommodation and security necessary for 100 Patients, If four or six single beds for those who are not violent or mischievous were placed in one room ; separate apartments seem in these cases unnecessary, and they add most materially to the expence of the Building " I have several Plans delivered in to me with *much lower estimates*, but these I consider as the most proper to be laid before the Committee.

The purchase of Lands, which in the foregoing cases have been attended [except in Cornwall, which was taken from the Common ; and in Dorset, where the Mansion and Lands were liberally presented by Mr. Brown, the late County Member] with heavy expense, will relieve the outlay in Devon considerably ; as this important part of the cost has been in a great degree, if not entirely, removed by the munificent donation of a Noble Magistrate, who has been always forthcoming even to the greatest extent of generosity, whenever public benevolence or private charity comes within his knowledge ; yet I am aware that it would be offensive to his truly unostentatious and Christian feelings, were I to illustrate by recounting what has come within my knowledge.

It may probably be enquired if the original expense would leave the County free from future annual charge, which, from various sources of information, I am convinced would be the case ; and I will submit the grounds upon which my opinion is formed ;

The expense of individuals is less in proportion to the number confined, not only upon general principles, but in the present case from the circumstance that the same officers, and a considerable proportion of attendants, would answer for a larger number. Taking them, however, at 200, a payment of 10s. a-week, which is the highest scale reported by Sir A. Halliday, the annual income would be £5200. allowing for each Patient

9s. a-week—or	- - - - -	£4160.	} £5200.
There would be for Officers, &c.	-	£1040.	

without making any allowance for the earnings of a large proportion of the Lunatics, especially where there is a considerable quantity of land for horticultural purposes, and in which case the whole consumption of vegetables for the establishment may be provided.

The *highest* estimate which Sir A. Halliday has reported (and which he confirms in a letter with which he has honoured me) to cover every expense of the house disbursements, salaries of officers, &c. will not exceed 10s. a week.

Indeed, I have always laid it down, as the ground-work of the plan, that the payments from Patients will more than make good every future expenditure; and that the Parishes, which are burthened with Lunatics, would derive every advantage from the prosperity of the Establishment, the profits of which would be applied in mitigation of their weekly payments.

The Medical Superintendant of the Lancashire Asylum, (Dr Davidson,) in a most intelligent letter, with which he has favoured me, says—"We have at present 360 Patients, and have accommodation for 30 more. The weekly maintenance for each Pauper Patient, and which includes medicine, medical, and other salaries, clothing, *and in short every thing*, is at present *six and sixpence a-week*; and we are in hopes that in a few months a *still smaller sum* will be required." The Doctor adds—"I would particularly call your attention to the circumstance of having sufficient ground for a Farm and Gardens, on which to employ the Patients, both for the sake of economy and the mental and bodily health derived therefrom."

Dr. Edward Luscombe informs me, whilst he expresses great anxiety to see an Asylum established in his native City, that the Pauper Lunatic Asylum, near Chester, provides for Patients belonging to the County at the reduced rate of 7s. *per week* and strangers at 10s., and that this is *more than sufficient to cover the whole expence.*

Although the Lincoln Asylum is not for Pauper Patients, yet I have been favoured with such a mass of valuable information from Doctor Charlesworth, of that City, (whose remarks on the treatment of the Insane, are most interesting,) as lead me to express thus publicly my obligations to that distinguished Physician ; nor must I withhold this observation, in one of his letters : “ The Courts and Airing Grounds cannot be too large. If you should think proper to forward to me a Plan of your intended Buildings and Grounds, I will return it with any suggestions which experience may lead me to offer.”

It appears that the scale of weekly payments varies from £2. to 9s.

Mr. Morton Pitt, with that zeal and indefatigable intelligence which enable him to overcome every difficulty that opposes his ardent course, to effect the good and comfort of his fellow creatures, has given me such suggestions as will be highly useful in a future stage of our Work; I shall now confine myself to his opinion that 8s. a-week may be the cost for the maintenance of Pauper Lunatics, Expences, &c. &c.

I have received abundant information and encouragement from Dr. Ellis, the Director of the Wakefield Pauper Lunatic Asylum. The Doctor reports that the finances of the Asylum will be found to be improving, although the rate of admission at the last annual meeting for 1829, *was reduced to 6s.* (which in 1821 was at 8s.) In consequence of the accommodation provided for the keeping of cows, there is a saving yearly of nearly £200. in the article of milk only; for by the use of spade husbandry a great quantity of provender has been raised on the land belonging to the Asylum, for the keep of all the cows, except for hay, &c. for which has

been laid out about £40. ; “ but” the Doctor adds, “ it is not in a *pecuniary* point of view only that the money has been profitably laid out,—it has furnished a source of interesting employment for some of the Patients, which attracts their attention, occupies their minds, and prevents the intrusion of many painful thoughts and musings on the past, which harass and distress them when unemployed.”

The Right Hon. Reginald Pole Carew has also supplied me with very valuable observations which will be greatly beneficial in the progress of the measure.

The Reports which I have received through Sir Andrew Halliday, of the state of the Pauper Lunatic Asylums in Ireland, at Armagh and Limerick, go to prove what great returns can be made by a judicious employment of Paupers. It appears that at Armagh, 12 Patients cultivated 13 acres of ground, and raised sufficient potatoes and other vegetables for the Establishment.

“The following gives a detail of the Earnings of the Establishment.

AVERAGED NUMBER DAILY EMPLOYED.

	Males.	Females	Total
Garden Labour - - - -	16	0	16
Weaving Linen - - - -	4	0	4
Weaving Clothing for Females -	2	0	2
Winding for Weavers - - -	4	0	4
Tailoring, 1—Matmaking, 2 -	3	0	3
Employed in Domestic affairs -	6	0	6
Spinning Flax - - - -	0	12	12
Making up Female Clothing -	0	8	8
Repairing Bedding and Clothing -	0	4	4
Washing - - - -	0	4	4
Assisting the Servants - - -	0	5	5
	35	33	68

“The following was manufactured by the Patients.

967 yds. Linen	116 Shifts made up
329 — blue Calico	72 Bedgowns ditto
300 — white ditto	58 Petticoats ditto
140 — Chequer	106 Caps
1015 hanks of Yarn spun	106 Aprons
115 Shirts made up.	

“The averaged number of Patients daily amounted to 104; the averaged cost per day, for Diet—each, 4d.,; and for Clothing, 19s. 5d. annually, including every thing.

“On comparing the admissions and discharges with former years, the result is most satisfactory. Of 50 recent cases, 41 recovered; and of 74 old cases, 8 recovered; of the 63 stated to have been relieved, it has since been ascertained, that 4 recovered; making a total of 53 finally restored in the period.

“So extensive a number of recoveries this year, leave a large portion of the Asylum unoccupied;—this is a most gratifying subject, and tends to confirm an opinion expressed in the first Report—that after the influx from the County Gaols, and such other Patients as had been waiting for the opening of the Asylum were relieved, the Institution would eventually prove fully adequate to meet any other demands which might be made on it within the district.

“T. JACKSON,

“*Superintendent.*”

At Limerick, the number of Patients daily employed through the last year may be taken at from 30 to 40 males, and from 55 to 60 females. The following is extracted from the Report:—

“I need not state to those whose visits to the Asylum are as constant as they are beneficial, that the discipline of the whole Establishment is continued on the successful principles of care, conciliation,

and wholesome employments.—Under the first of these heads, you have observed a rigid exactness in the neatness of the House, the cleanliness of the Patients in their dress, food, and bedding; the unremitted watchfulness of their Guardians and Nurses; and the indefatigable attention to their health by their Medical Attendants.

“ The total absence of coercion, the almost total disuse of even restraint, and the constant supply of trifling (though not unimportant) application of tea, snuff, and tobacco, as rewards, and the observance of days of good cheer, as Christmas, Easter, &c. have ranked under the second head, and enabled me to call into exercise the third and most powerful and most effectual of all means to restore the mind: wholesome and pleasing employment. And a reference to our Work Account will shew that our efforts in this particular have been eminently successful. It should, however, be kept in view, that the object of employing Lunatic Patients, should be that which has excited the benevolence of the Legislature, and for which their fellow men contribute the taxes levied for their support, viz.: the restoration of the unhappy Maniacs to the reason which they have lost. I have kept this in view as my primary object, and have the satisfaction to state, that while the Patients were kept, in general usefully occu-

pied I have done so not only without a loss to the public but even with a considerable profit. The average number of Patients daily employed throughout the year, may be taken at from 30 to 40 males, and from 55 to 60 females ; and by the employment of the men, additional portion of our ground has been reclaimed—a stratum of rock, of four feet deep, has been removed from a considerable extent of the surface, and its place supplied with fresh soil, so as to render it arable and productive land. The produce of the cultivated part of the garden has been about 80 barrels of excellent potatoes, affording for the whole Establishment four months' consumption, and averaging, in value, Sixty-four Pounds Sterling. In the articles of roots and vegetables, there has been raised a supply sufficient for the year's consumption, of the best quality, and which, at market prices, would have amounted to a very large sum.

“In the Female Department, Mrs. Jackson has succeeded in having two tons of flax spun. This has kept five looms employed—one, as last year, worked by a Patient, who presented, on his arrival in this Asylum, one of the most deplorable and dangerous cases of Insanity I ever witnessed. Another loom is worked by my Gate-keeper, and three more by men employed. Our linen is of a superior description for sheeting and shirting—Russia duek for trowsers and straight-waistcoats, superior to any we

could purchase, and more than one thousand yards of canvas, have evinced the successful employment of our spinners. The making up of this canvas in sacks has given useful occupation to those whose fancy and skill lay more in sewing; and we add with pleasure, that the Merchants who purchased these bags, give them a decided preference. Several stone of wool have been carded, dressed, and spun; and while it afforded a pleasing employment to knitters, has produced an abundant supply of stockings for both male and female Patients, and a few pieces of excellent flannel.

“Several of the female Patients, who were unacquainted with spinning and knitting, have been constantly employed at the needle, and, under the direction of their Nurses, have made up all the clothing for the female department, most of the male clothing, besides a large quantity of finer work, sent in by persons residing in town, which they finished in such a manner as gave general satisfaction.

“By these means, our clothing for nearly the entire Establishment has been reduced to the mere prime cost of the raw materials—while their beneficial effects on the minds of the Patients have been such, that out of 206 Patients under care in the past year, it has not been necessary, at any one time, to have scarcely more than three under restraint.”

In conclusion it must be remembered that the Expenditure now looked to is but trifling, and that it is relieved of much of its burthen by the consideration of the Legislature, I am sure therefore that it will be cheerfully met for those whose pitiable situations are generally irremediable, except by the aid of those who, *unlike them*, are blessed with reason, and the means of affording relief to their suffering and helpless fellow creatures, and thus become the instruments, under Divine Providence, of removing from thousands the cloud of intellectual darkness, and of restoring the light of reason, and with it unfeigned thankfulness for the recovery of the greatest of all human blessings.

From what I have here stated it will be seen that in the first place there will be no difficulty in raising the comparatively small sum required for the erection of the Building;—that the Establishment will not afterwards be attended with any expence to the County;—that Parishes now paying largely for the care of their Lunatic Paupers, will derive all the advantages of the profits of the Establishment, which will be applied in reduction of the weekly sum;—

that an Asylum, affording as it will a ready retreat for the sufferers, will enable Parish Officers to apply the *earliest attention* to the cases ; which, as I have shewn, will tend more than any thing else to the cure of the Patients, and the consequent diminution of the malady throughout the County. All these facts, therefore, prove that the outlay will be a measure of sound economy. I need not here allude to the higher and more important motives which should actuate us in the course of this enquiry ; nor need I enter into any further remarks on the present inefficient and deplorable management of the Lunatic Poor, or compare it with the wholesome restorative treatment practised in a public Asylum. These points are too obvious to require any comment from me.

Since these sheets have been prepared, I have received from Sir Andrew Halliday, a Copy of the Return of the Number of Pauper Lunatics and Idiots, in the several Counties of England and Wales, taken from the Returns to Parliament as ordered to be printed by the House of Commons, June, 1830.

I regret that the shortness of the time will only enable me to give the following Abstract.

	Lunatics.		Idiots.		Total.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
In England	2083	2737	2365	2054	9239
In Wales	98	118	225	236	680
Total Number of Lunatics and Idiots					9919

To which should be added the numbers ascertained to be in public or private Asylums, taken from the Annual Reports of these Establishments, amounting to 3466, and Insane Persons in the Army and Navy (not in any Return) 280, making a total of 13665.

These cursory observations, the result of long and anxious reflection, are offered with great diffidence, yet not, I trust, as a presumptuous and *unnecessary* intrusion.

Fully impressed with the importance of the measure and the obligation upon us to carry it into effect, and convinced as I am of its ultimate

economy, I confidently hope that this effort will lead to the establishment of an Institution which can alone check the rapid increase of a most calamitous and humiliating visitation, at present more general in our own than in any other nation of the World !





